

Chairperson Roberts and Members of the committee for the record my name is Wilfred SunChild and I live in Havre, Montana. I have come here to testify on behalf of two year old daughter Tearia SunChild who has been denied Medicare and medicaid due to the fact that it has been determined that we her parents make too much money for Tearia to qualify. When she was born she had been diagnosed with a cleft palate and since that time she has been thru numerous procedures to correct this defect, and we are told she will continue on this path indefinitely. In the short time that she has been with us we have made countless trips to Billings and other medical facilities on her behalf and have accrued bills that even our tribe can not afford to pay, as a result we have been turned into the credit bureau for the unpaid medical bills and it has had a profound effect on our ability

I want to set for my children. Since the time we have applied for and been denied these benefits I have personally witnessed 10 individuals who have drank or drugged their bodies into submission, who have not worked a day in their lives and havent paid a dime into SSI become eligible to receive disability based on there condition. This is so disheartening. Somehow it just does not seem fair. If you can tell my daughter that she has been denied based on our income than why cant you tell the slackers that too are denied based on the fact that they have not paid enough into SSI. It should also be noted that I was referred to senator Baususes and Mary Ellen Nelson and was told by her personally that she would look into this matter, it has been close to a year now and still no response.

to keep up with the cost of living.  
Tearia has been going to a school which  
recognizes her as a special needs child,  
a school which receives federal funds based  
on this designation; she has been going to  
speech therapy which has been hampered by  
the fact that she has failed three hearing  
tests. Chairperson Roberts and members of  
the committee with all due respect three  
minutes is not enough time for me to  
describe the heartache and mental anguish  
we have gone thru in regards to our little  
girl. I have worked for 18 years and  
have paid into SSI and have been told my  
children will get \$1800 per month if I die  
or become disabled. Why must I die or  
become disabled for my daughter to realize  
these benefits. Sometimes I think I  
would be better off if I quit my job  
and collect TANF so my children can have  
access to adequate health care that they  
deserve, but that is not the example

It is not about the money  
it is about attaining and retaining  
adequate health care for our daughter.

Chair person Roberts and members of  
the committee on behalf of our daughter  
I thank you for your time and  
consideration

Wilford Smith

1-19-11